Country Brief: Kenya

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To date, EdTech Hub has been engaging with government and non-government entities in Kenya and carrying out several activities in the country. Partners have included the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), World Bank, the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and others (detailed below). EdTech Hub is committed to deepening its relationships to ensure that what it learns shapes the design, deployment, and scale of programmes, as well as the development of EdTech products that are rooted in pedagogical evidence.

Engagement with government

- EdTech Hub worked collaboratively with the KICD team to conduct a SWOT analysis of the Kenya Education Cloud (2021).
- EdTech Hub works with Keep Kenya Learning (KKL), an initiative to assist caregivers with learning at home. Currently, KICD is part of the KKL collaboration as well (2021; ongoing).

Research activities

- With the Education Development Trust, EdTech Hub supported a study on The Power of Girls' Reading Camps that looked at ways to improve girls' learning in remote areas (2021).
- With the Busara Centre for Behavioural Economics, EdTech Hub supported a study into barriers for girls in using EdTech (2021).
- EdTech Hub conducted a Country-level Research Review, which describes the research landscape on EdTech in Kenya (2021).
- EdTech Hub presented the above research at the EE4A conference in Naivasha in November 2021 and joined a panel discussion on incorporating EdTech into policy.

Innovation

Through the sandbox model, EdTech Hub supported the British Council in redesigning their Learning2Code programme, an initiative to provide learners in public schools with coding skills as outlined in Kenya's Competency-Based Curriculum. Using the sandbox model, EdTech Hub supported implementing partners such as the British Council, Ministry of Education, and the Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEA). Hub support helped these partners build their own capacity to conduct cycles of user research, testing approaches, and iterative improvement.

Focus areas

- The Hub is supporting foundational numeracy and literacy (FLN) initiatives to leverage technology and is working in partnership with the South-to-South

Kirinyaga coalition that aims to improve the literacy of all learners by Grade 3. This partnership includes the What Works Hub (FCDO); research organisation Zizi Afrique; Dignitas, an NGO focused on teacher and school leader professional development; and EdTech Hub, among others.

- Digital Literacy Programme (DLP) 2: EdTech Hub is currently working on Memorandum of Understanding agreements with both the Ministry of Education and ICT Authority, which will enable the Hub to be part of designing a more evidence-based approach in the second phase of the DLP.
- Data for decision-making: Working on an agreement with Kenya National Examination Council to support their vision to ensure sufficient and accurate data is gathered in their assessment to inform decisions made across the education sector.

EdTech Hub's Helpdesk in Kenya

EdTech Hub has responded to three Helpdesk requests in Kenya. Two were from FCDO and one from the World Bank. These requests focused on using technology for education, delivering and tracking online learning, and digital education. We are also in the process of delivering a Helpdesk request for the UNICEF Kenya Country Office (CO): The Hub is supporting the development of an EdTech strategy to guide the CO's investment in the EdTech sector in Kenya.

Example

- SWOT Analysis of the Kenya Education Cloud

EdTech Hub's work in Kenya

Activity	Description
The Use of Technology to Improve Equity and Inclusion in Education in North and Northeast Kenya (Report) (Completed in July 2023) Small (GBP 50K or less)	EdTech Hub received several enquiries from development partners in Kenya on the role technology can play in improving equity in access to education in North and Northeast Kenya, a region with persistently low attendance and learning outcomes. The Hub explored how technology can enhance access to quality learning for girls, learners with disabilities, out-of-school learners (especially pastoralists, and learners impacted by climate emergencies). The associated report was used to inform the July 2023 episode of EdTech Mondays Kenya, which aired to approximately 1 million viewers in Kenya.
Evidence-based design and deployment of an education systems change initiative in Kirinyaga County, in partnership with What Works Hub (Ongoing) Medium (GBP 50K–250K)	EdTech Hub has been invited to join the design committee for the Kirinyaga project, which aims to mirror the advances in learning outcomes that were achieved in Sobral, Brazil. The Hub's contribution will focus on the role of technology in supporting teacher professional development as well as student learning and assessments. The Hub will lead a sandbox in partnership with the local government to generate evidence on using technology to improve foundational literacy.

Technical Assistance to the Ministry of ICT and Innovation, through the ICT Authority, to integrate evidence into DLP2 (Started in 2023; Ongoing) Small (GBP 50K or less)	In 2022, EdTech Hub contributed to a report on Kenya's Digital Learning Programme (DLP) that was conducted by the Office of the President, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of ICT. The Hub is in the process of signing an MoU with the ICT Authority, under the Ministry of ICT, to review the plans for the next phase of the DLP programme (DLP2). This is to ensure alignment with the evidence produced in the report. The Hub will provide TA to the ICT Authority to use evidence to improve the impact and cost-effectiveness of DLP2.
Co-Lead Collective Action to Advance Kenya EdTech community's impact on foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) (Started in 2023; Ongoing) Small (GBP 50K or less)	EdTech Hub is leveraging its expertise in using technology to improve FLN to inform a set of conversations that will help the local EdTech community to work collectively to improve FLN outcomes. Through a series of Collective Action workshops in partnership with EdTech East Africa, the Hub will support the generation of shared metrics and activities to support technology-enabled FLN interventions by numerous EdTech innovators, researchers, and funders.
Technical Assistance (TA) to the Kenya National Examination Council to inform evidence-based design and deployment of e-assessments (Ongoing) Small (GBP 50K or less)	The Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) aims to transform the use of data for decision-making in Kenya's education system. By shifting to digital assessments, KNEC wants to empower policymakers and policy implementers to more consistently and effectively use data for decision-making at the national, sub-national, school, and classroom levels. The Hub will provide TA to KNEC to help them generate evidence to create an inclusive and effective assessment system and to build the capacity of actors at all levels to use data for decision-making.
Supporting Keep Kenya Learning and the Parent Engagement and Empowerment Consortium to build evidence-based tools for engaging low/no literacy caregivers (Ongoing) Small (GBP 50K or less)	Keep Kenya Learning (KKL) is an initiative to empower parents and caregivers with the knowledge and skills they need to use digital tools to support learning at home. KKL was a founding member of the Parent Engagement & Empowerment (PEE) Consortium in partnership with the Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development and the National Parents Association. In this next phase of work, KKL will develop evidence and a set of tools to engage parents with no or low literacy through digital tools, a persistent challenge identified by the PEE Consortium. The Hub will provide TA on using the sandbox methodology.

Examples illustrating the impact of the Hub's work in Kenya

Technical Assistance to the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform (PWPER)
Following the transition to the new administration in September 2022, the President of Kenya created a task force to review key elements of the country's competency-based curriculum and the education system supporting it. The 40-member task force was created to review key elements of the system, including ICT integration in teaching and

learning. EdTech Hub's TA to the PWPER, specifically to the Technology in Education Sub-Committee, allowed the Hub to introduce relevant evidence from its Kenya-based research portfolio and the qualitative review of the government's flagship digital learning initiative – the Digital Literacy Programme (DLP). This review was used to inform a set of recommendations for education reform in Kenya. The report was released by the Office of the President in August 2023. A summary of the recommendations included:

- Overcome school-based barriers: Identify and address obstacles affecting learning outcomes, including issues related to teacher competency, relevant content, and leadership support for digital teaching.

- Tackle system-based challenges: Utilise learner data to inform teaching strategies and enhance learning. Ensure sustainability of digital infrastructure by addressing affordability issues for connectivity and maintenance.

- Refine Digital Literacy Program (DLP) goals: Strengthen the emphasis on teaching and learning within the DLP framework, aligning objectives with improved educational outcomes.